

November 2017 report for the Thredling Division from Cllr Matthew Hicks

Don't put off your flu vaccination

Health chiefs in Suffolk are reminding people to get a flu vaccination to ward off the worst effects of a potentially debilitating illness. Parents of 2-3-year-olds are being encouraged to take their child to have a simple nasal spray vaccination at their GP surgery, while carers are also advised not to put off their free flu jab. With higher than usual numbers of people contracting flu in the Southern Hemisphere during their winter season earlier this year, it is more important than ever not to delay getting the vaccination. Public Health England's Chief Medical Officer has warned flu and the complications associated with it cause, on average, 8,000 deaths a year. People with long term health conditions such as diabetes, heart, kidney or liver disease are eligible for a free vaccination, as are pregnant women and all those over 65. People should contact their GP, pharmacist or midwife to get the flu jab.

Suffolk Fostering Service launches first in a series of fostering recruitment campaigns

Suffolk County Council's Fostering Service will launch a series of campaigns over the coming months to encourage more Suffolk residents to become foster carers. 820 children currently live in care in Suffolk and there is an urgent need for more people to come forward to foster. Suffolk Fostering Service is the longest established provider of fostering services in the county, offering competitive fees, 24-hour support services and up to 21 days paid leave per year. Teenagers in care have often gone through a great deal in their lives and this campaign aims to give an honest reflection of what it takes to be a foster carer and the rewards that can come as a result. The campaign is accompanied by a new promotional video providing an insight into what it takes to be a foster carer for teenagers and the positive difference they make to a young person's life. The video addresses why the application process can be timely and thorough, describing how the vulnerability of the children in care makes the timeframe absolutely necessary. It also makes clear that the robustness and intensity of the process is equally there to benefit and protect the prospective foster carer, ensuring that they are fully prepared and certain of the commitment they are making. Suffolk residents are being asked to consider whether they have the patience, compassion and the spare room required to provide a child with the secure home life they need. Please visit www.fosterandadopt.suffolk.gov.uk

A series of natural flood protection measures are currently being put in place around Debenham

Local land owners are joining forces with local organisations including Suffolk County Council, Environment Agency, Essex & Suffolk Rivers Trust and East Suffolk Internal Drainage Board to deliver the Deben Holistic Water Project. This work offers a new approach to managing water resources that flow through the area. Through constructive discussions, several landowners showed a willingness to work with the council and the other organisations to develop natural flood management features on their land, upstream from where flooding often occurs, using their knowledge of water flow and land heights. Records of historic flooding in Debenham go back to 1816, with the most notable recent floods occurring during the 1990s. Three tributaries of the River Deben converge in the village where the river is constrained by historic development. Traditional approaches to flood management have previously been modelled for consideration but have always proved too costly with estimations in the region of £10-12 million. The features built to date are of different sizes, but all designed to intercept water during heavy rainfall holding it in a pond or small reservoir, releasing water into the river once levels drop. The largest protection feature, located at Hill House Farm, covers 0.26 hectares and will include permanent water plus space for flood water. It will create a wonderful new watery habitat for plants and wildlife in years to come. So far, three features have been installed at Debenham Hall, Aspoll Hall and Hill House Farm, funded by the local flood levy, SCC and the Essex & Suffolk Rivers Trust. It is hoped that more similar features will be installed upstream on Debenham in the next few years, subject to funds being available. As well as reducing the risk of local flooding, these features will help to reduce the amount of sediment and pollutants getting into the river, and provide new habitats.

Parents urged to have their say on school admissions consultation

We are seeking views on its proposed admissions policy for the 2019/2020 school year; ensuring school places are offered to children in a fair way. The consultation, which started on Monday 2 October, will run until Monday 13 November 2017. There are proposals to make some minor changes to the admission arrangements and coordinated admissions scheme for schools in Suffolk for the 2019/2020 school year. The governing bodies of voluntary aided, foundation, free schools and academies are responsible for admissions to their schools. If you want to view the arrangements for these schools, you should contact the school directly. To view the consultation documents and to have your say on the proposals, please visit www.suffolk.gov.uk/consultations.

Matthew Hicks - County Councillor for the Thredling Division

Tel : 01728 628176 Mob : 07824474741 E-mail : matthew.hicks@suffolk.gov.uk